

probably *P. retirugis*, were collected on horse dung in the swampy area.

In the waters of Gooralong Brook Koonaes (*Cheraps preissii*) were numerous and it was interesting to note that they harboured numerous individuals of a *Temnocephala*—the northernmost record of this group in the State. No Jilgies (*C. quinqueearinatus*) were observed. Two species of fishes were noted: the Western Australian Minnow (*Galaxias ooeidentalis*) and the Nightfish (*Bostockia hemigramma*). Dip-nettings in various parts of the brook and its swampy enlargements did not reveal the presence of an abundant fauna.

In the damp earth adjacent were collected two individuals of *Peripatus* (*Peripatoides occidentalis*—the northern form, *gilesii*, with 16 pairs of claw-bearing legs, and of both colour forms, one specimen being red-brown and the other almost black). The land amphipod was rather sparsely represented. Mr. K. Shcard reported that the species is not yet identified but it appears to be ecologically equivalent and closely allied to *Talitroides sylvaticus*, the leaf-mould amphipod of the savannah forests of south-eastern Australia and not related to *T. kershawi* the amphipod of the south-eastern rain-forest areas and on which the Lyre-bird feeds.

Birds were numerous, the outstanding observation being of a single individual of the Red-eared Firetail (*Zonaeginthus oelatus*) in the brook-side thickets (the only recent northern Darling Range records are from Mundaring Reservoir, September 1946, and Upper Drakes Brook near Waroona, January and November 1940). Other species noted were: White-tailed Black Cockatoo, Twenty-eight Parrot, Western Rosella, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Pallid Cuckoo (calling), Fan-tailed Cuckoo (calling), Golden Bronze Cuckoo (calling), Treemartin, Grey Fantail (singing), Scarlet Robin, Golden Whistler, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Western Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Yellow-tailed Thornbill, Western Warbler (singing), Banded Blue-Wren (several males in full plumage), Black-capped Sittella, Red-tipped Diamond-bird (calling continually, one seen entering nesting hollow in jarrah), Spotted Diamond-bird (not numerous), Silvercyc, Western Spinebill, Brown Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater, Red Wattle-bird, Little Wattle-bird, Raven, Squaker and Magpie.

Three Kangaroos (*Macropus oeydromus*) were seen. Signs of Possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) were looked for without success. Rabbits were absent.

—D.L.S.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Display of Crested Bell-bird.—On October 10, 1948, at 1815 hours, I observed two Bell-birds (*Oreoica gutturalis*) by a roadside, apparently displaying. The duller of the two birds, which I assumed to be a hen, hopped over the ground calling "chirr, chir-r-r-r," while the second bird, presumed to be a male, behaved

fearlessly, alternately perching and pursuing the hen and uttering a "rack-rack" call. This bird perched on bushes, an ant-hill, and on a wire stay to a telegraph pole. Both the calls used were unfamiliar to me.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Leonora.

Smoker Parrots in Kings Park.—During the past quarter of a century the Smoker Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*) has extended its range into the South-west in a striking manner. On the Swan coastal plain it is now known as far south as Coolup and though it has been recorded from as near Perth as Melville it has not so far been reported in the near vicinity of the city.

On the morning of October 12, 1950 I saw two birds in Kings Park. They were perched in a tree by Poole Avenue, near Forrest and Lovekin Drives.

—W. R. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

Life History Notes on the Jewel Beetle, *Melobasis sexplagiata*.—Since my previous contribution (*W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 2, January 1950, p. 57) I am able to add a few more facts about this beetle which may be of interest.

The first adult specimen I obtained in 1950 was cut out of a *Eucalyptus rudis* on May 12, this date being approximately one month earlier than that published in the article. Since then specimens were collected on June 25, July 10 and 19, August 20, September 4 and October 10. The last-mentioned date is nearly a fortnight later than my previously published record.

In May there were many larvae present in the bark. They were in different stages of development, the bulk of them about to pupate. In June and July a few larvae were present but mostly there were well-formed pupae and mature beetles. During August and September there were hardly any larvae; but there were small ones of the new generation. There were mainly mature beetles present.

In October I obtained two specimens of the perfect insect. They were extremely active and when found were just under the bark, apparently about to emerge. On this occasion the young larvae were more numerous, small and apparently just recently hatched, all having the distinct blood streak down the back. Specimens measured from one-quarter to one-half an inch.

I tried to find a mature specimen of the beetle again in November, but only found larvae in great numbers, all busy at their tunnelling.

From the above observations it seems that adult specimens of *Melobasis sexplagiata* are definitely free and flying and ovipositing from June until October.

—R. P. McMILLAN, "Glendearg," Bejoording.